publication of objectionable photographs PCI also take *suo-motu* action against obscene/vulgar depiction of women

Functioning of DD and AIR under Prasar Bharati

†2097 SHRI KAPIL SIBAL
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN'

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state

(a) whether government have reviewed the functioning of Doordarshan and All India Radio after these institution have been brought under the Prasar Bharati,

(b) if so, the institutions which have been asked by Government to conduct the review, and

(c) the details of the improvement noticed so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) (a) to (c) A Review Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Shunu Sen, Chairman & Chief Executive, Quadra Advisory, Marketing Consultant was constituted on 22 11 1999 which submitted a detailed report to the Government on 20 5 2000 The Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC) under Chairmanship of Shri K P Geetha Krishnan in its report, submitted on 20 9 2000, also made recommendations on the rationalizing of the functions, activities and structure of the Ministry of I&B including AIR and Doordarshan Action in pursuance of the reports of the Committee is under examination in consultation with Prasar Bharati

Expenditure on DD news channel

†2098 SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN'
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the estimated expenditure has been assessed for starting a new news channel on Doordarshan,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(b) if so, the assessment about the expenditure,

(c) whether any assessment about the income likely to be generated through advertisement has also been made, and

(d) if so, the estimate thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) to (d) Prasar Bharati has informed that during the current financial year 2003-2004, Rs 20 00 crores has been sanctioned and for the financial year 2004-2005, a provision of Rs 54 00 crores has been proposed Prasar Bharati has also informed that for the year 2004-2005 and 2005-2006, the revenue generation of Doordarshan News Channel is targeted at 50% and 100% respectively of the cost of the scheme estimated at Rs 54 00 crores

Dual revenue by pay channels

†2099 SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that on one hand the pay channels are charging money from the advertising companies and on the other hand they also collect money from the people who watch these programmes,

(b) if so, the justifications therefor,

(c) if this practice is against the rules, the steps taken by Government to check the same, and

(d) the countries where the practice of dual recovery of revenue is prevalent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) (a) to (d) The pay channels money from advertising companies and also collect money from its subscribers The rates for the pay channels are determined by the broadcasters/MSOS There are no provisions either under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 or the rules framed thereunder to regulate the amount payable by the subscribers

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi